

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 MED-02 AID-05
DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00
USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 L-03 H-01 HEW-04
IGA-02 DODE-00 /066 W
-----240757Z 071445 /10

P 231535Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1387
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MBABANE 0704

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR/ WZ
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON DECRIMINALIZATION
OF MARIJUANA

REF: STATE 57902

1. SITUATION CONCERNING USE OF MARIJUANA IS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT THE LOCAL VIARIETY, CALLED DAGGA, HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN PART OF CULTURE OF BOTH CEREMONIAL AND MEDICINAL USES. FOR THIS REASON, GOS PROVISIONS ON POSSESSION TEND TO BE LESS RIGIDLY ENFORCED IN RURAL AREAS THAN IN URBAN AREAS.
2. BASIC GOS LAW GOVERNING MARIJUANA USE AND TRAFFICKING IS 1932 OPIUM AND HABIT FORMING DRUGS ACT.

A. PERSONAL USE IS NOT AGAINST THE LAW.

B. POSSESSION FOR PERSONAL USE IS NOT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE BUT POSSESSION FOR TRAFFICKING IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

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C. POSSESSION FOR PERSONAL USE IS PUNISHABLE BY FINES, MAXIMUM AMOUNT IS E 2,000 (US \$2,300.00). SIZE OF FINE IS LEFT TO MAGISTRATE'S DISCRETION AND DEPENDS ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF PARTICULAR CASE. THERE IS NO PREDETERMINED SCHEDULE OF FINES.

D. POSSESSION FOR TRAFFICKING IS PUNISHABLE BY
FINES UP TO E2,000 OR UP TO FIVE YEARS IN
PRISON, AT MAGISTRATE'S DISCRETION.

3. USE OF DAGGA IN SWAZILAND IS SO WIDESPREAD THAT
ONLY MINIMAL EFFORT IS MADE TO ENFORCE PROVISIONS
CONCERNING POSSESSION FOR PERSONAL USE, ESPECIALLY IN
RURAL AREAS. HOWEVER, GOS MAKES MAJOR EFFORT, UNDER
HEAVY PRESSURE FROM RSA, TO DESTROY DAGGA CROPS AND
PROSECUTES PERSONS FOUND TO BE TRAFFICKING IN DAGGA.
(FYI, THE COURTS SEEM TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN PERSONS
FOUND TO BE IN POSSESSION OF LARGE AMOUNTS AND WHO ARE
"TRAFFICKING" IN RURAL AREAS AMONG TRADITIONALIST SECTOR
OF POPULATION AND PERSONS FOUND WITH LARGE QUANTITIES
WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE ENGAGED IN SMUGGLING.
END FYI.).

4. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A SWAZI CITIZEN TO GET A DOCTOR'S
PERMIT TO LEGALLY POSSESS DAGGA FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES.
WACHOB

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARIJUANA, LAW, DRUG CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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